

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 021371

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ORIGIN DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 COA-02 SS-20 CG-00 L-03

SSO-00 /092 R

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APPROVED BY D/LOS/ JOH N. MORE

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 021371

E.O. LL652, GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS: UK DRAFT ARTICLES ON TERRITORIAL

SEA, STRAITS, AND RELATED MATTERS

US EMBASSY LONDON INFORMED US BY PHONE THAT UK IS
NOW PREPARED TO DELAY TABLING ITS DRAFT ARTICLES
ON THIS SUBJECT UNTIL FEBRUARY 8 IN ORDER TO ALLOW
TIME FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH US. THIS INFORMATION WAS
CONFIRMED BY UK EMBASSY.

2. AMBASSADOR JOHN R. STEVENSON, SPECIAL REPRESENTA-
TIVE OF THE PRESIDENT FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE,
PHONED DIRECTLY TO SIR ROGER JACKLING, THE UK REPRE-
SENTATIVE FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. STEVENSON
REACHED JACKLING IN BONN WHERE JACKLING IS CONFERRING
ON THE DRAFT ARTICLES WITH THE GERMANS AND OTHERS.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 021371

STEVENSON STATED THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS

FOR US IN THE BRITISH DRAFT BOTH FROM THE STANDPOINT OF SUBSTANCE AND TACTICS, AND POINTED TO RISK THAT, IF UK WENT AHEAD ON ITS OWN WITH ITS PRESENT DRAFT, THAT OTHERS WOULD BE ABLE TO USE TO THEIR ADVANTAGE DIFFERENCES AMONG VARIOUS STRAITS PROPOSALS. AT THE SAME TIME, US UNDERSTOOD BRITISH EFFORT IN TRYING TO MEET SOME OF THE CONCERNS WHICH HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED IN THIS AREA BY THE UK ARTICLES.

3. STEVENSON STRESSED DESIRABILITY OF TRYING TO REACH A COMMON POSITION IN THE GROUP OF FIVE. HE INDICATED US PLANS TO SEND A SMALL TEAM TO LONDON FOR CONSULTATIONS ON FEBRUARY 4.

4. SIR ROGER JACKLING SAID ALSO IT IS IMPORTANT TO GET DRAFT ARTICLES OUT IN SUFFICIENT TIME SO THAT THEY COULD INFLUENCE PARTICIPANTS IN NAIROBI GROUP OF 77 MEETING (APRIL 2-L2).

5. STEVENSON SUGGESTED THAT A GROUP OF 5 MEETING COULD BE HELD ON MARCH 4 OR EVEN EARLIER IF NECESSARY IN ORDER TO REACH AGREEMENT.

6. SIR ROGER SAID THE UK IS ANXIOUS NOT TO BREAK RANKS, BUT THERE MAY BE SOME ADVANTAGE TO UK PUTTING IN ITS DRAFT VERY SOON. STEVENSON STRESSED AGAIN THE DESIRABILITY OF A JOINT PRODUCT.

7. SIR ROGER CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HE WOULD NOT DO ANYTHING WITH REGARD TO SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES UNTIL AFTER THE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE US TEAM AND EVEN THEN HE WOULD NOT ACT UNTIL HE HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER AGAIN WITH AMBASSADOR STEVENSON.

ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY LONDON IS REQUESTED TO INFORM FOREIGN OFFICE OF ABOVE STEVENSON/JACKLING CONVERSATION, PARTICULARLY OF OUR INTENTION TO SEND SMALL TEAM TO LONDON FOR CONSULTATIONS ON FEBRUARY 4. HOTEL RESERVATIONS REQUESTED FOR
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PAGE 03 STATE 021371

JOHN NORTON MOORE, CHAIRMAN, THE NSC INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA AND DEPUTY SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT FOR THE LOS CONFERENCE, WHO WILL HEAD THE DELEGATION, AND THREE ADDITIONAL PERSONS FOR NIGHTS OF FEBRUARY 3 AND 4. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENT DRAFT, LAW OF THE SEA, TERRITORIAL WATERS, MARITIME MEETINGS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE021371
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LOS SMCINTYRE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740261/aaaacflw.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN DLOS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Jul-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <30 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOS: UK DRAFT ARTICLES ON TERRITORIAL SEA, STRAITS, AND RELATED MATTERS
TAGS: PBOR, US, UK
To: LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005